

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a skin adherent facing layer consisting of a discrete layer of silicone gel having a plurality of preformed apertures arranged in a pattern;

wherein the silicone gel layer includes a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly.

Claim 2 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are defined in a pattern varying in number per unit area according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 3 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are defined in a pattern varying in size according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 4 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer is substantially planar along a proximal surface thereof.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally circular.

Claim 7 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally uniform in shape.

Claim 8 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally equally spaced from one another.

Claim 9 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of the apertures comprises alternating apertures of at least two different sizes.

Claim 10 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 9, wherein the apertures have two different sizes, the first size being larger than the second size and the apertures of the first size being bordered by the apertures of the second size.

Claim 11 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the apertures of the second size are bordered by the apertures of the first size.

Claim 12 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer has a progressive increase of tackiness extending from a central portion to a border portion thereof.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer has regions of varying thickness.

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Claims 15 – 20 (Canceled).